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Disarmament Commission
Substantive session of 2016
New York, 4-22 April 2016

Draft report

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I. Introduction

1. At its seventieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/68, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads as follows:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004, 60/91 of 8 December 2005, 61/98 of 6 December 2006, 62/54 of 5 December 2007, 63/83 of 2 December 2008, 64/65 of 2 December 2009, 65/86 of 8 December 2010, 66/60 of 2 December 2011, 67/71 of 3 December 2012, 68/63 of 5 December 2013 and 69/77 of 2 December 2014,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in promoting the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Recalling in particular General Assembly resolution 45/62 B of 4 December 1990, in which it noted with satisfaction the adoption by consensus of a set of "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission",[2] Assembly decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998 concerning the efficient functioning of the Commission and Assembly resolution 61/98, which contains additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative subsidiary body of the General Assembly that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues, and recalling that the Commission shall make every effort to ensure that, insofar as possible, decisions on substantive issues be adopted by consensus, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3]

Emphasizing once again the important place of the Disarmament Commission within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament, notes that the Commission has not submitted

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/70/42).
[2] Resolution 44/119 C, annex.
[3] Resolution S-10/2.

any substantive recommendations to the General Assembly in the course of the past 16 years, and thus encourages the revitalization of the work of the Commission in its current triennial cycle;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for a focused and results-oriented discussion on the items on the agenda of the Disarmament Commission;

4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982 and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[2]

5. *Welcomes* the fact that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492, at its 347th meeting, on 7 April 2015, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2015,[1] on the understanding that consultations would continue on ways and means to implement resolution 69/77, and that the Commission decided that the agenda for its substantive session of 2015 should serve for the period 2015-2017;

6. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue consideration of the following items at its substantive session of 2016:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

7. *Notes* that the Disarmament Commission encourages the Chairs of its working groups to continue, during the intersessional period, informal consultations on the agenda item allocated to each of the groups;

8. *Encourages* the Disarmament Commission to invite, as appropriate, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to prepare background papers on the items on its agenda and, if need be, other disarmament experts to present their views, as provided for in paragraph 3 (*e*) of resolution 61/98, upon the invitation of the Chair and with the prior approval of the Commission;

9. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2016, namely from 4 to 22 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, and stresses that the report of the Commission should contain a summary by the Chair of the proceedings to reflect different views or positions if no agreement can be reached on the specific agenda item deliberated on, as provided for in paragraph 3.4 of the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of

priority, all the resources and services necessary, including verbatim records, to that end, and also requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 2015 session,[4] together with all the official records of the seventieth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

11. *Invites* Member States to submit their views and proposals on the matter early enough to enable practical consultations among them prior to the beginning of the substantive session of 2016 of the Disarmament Commission, with a view to facilitating its constructive outcome, and in this regard encourages the Chair-designate to commence consultations and preparations for the substantive session of 2016 in a timely manner upon his or her nomination;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", the sub-item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

II. Organization and work of the substantive session of 2016

2. The Disarmament Commission held its organizational session for 2016 at United Nations Headquarters at its 354th plenary meeting, on 19 January 2016 (see A/CN.10/PV.354). At that meeting, the Commission considered questions relating to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its substantive session of 2016 in accordance with the "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 44/119 C, annex) and in the light of Assembly resolution 70/68. The Commission also took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotation of the position of Chair among the geographic regions. The Commission elected the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations, Odo Tevi, as Chair for its 2016 session. The Commission took note of the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2016.

3. At its 355th meeting, on 4 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2016 (A/CN.10/L.76). The agenda reads as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.
5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/70/27).

6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

7. Other business.

4. At the same meeting the Commission took note of its schedule of meetings for the session (A/CN.10/2016/CRP.1).

5. The Commission met at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 22 April 2016. In the course of its session, the Commission held 6 plenary meetings (see A/CN.10/PV.355-360). The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, served as the secretariat of the Commission, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs represented the substantive secretariat.

6. During the 2016 session, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chair:

Odo Tevi (Vanuatu)

Vice-Chairs:

Representatives of Armenia and Poland

7. Kairat Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan) continued to serve as Chair of Working Group I, on agenda item 4, and Bouchaib El Oumni (Morocco) continued to serve as Chair of Working Group II, on agenda item 5.

8. At its 355th to 358th meetings on 4 and 5 April, the Disarmament Commission held a general exchange of views on all agenda items (see A/CN.10/PV.355-358). Representatives of the following countries made statements during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Egypt (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Egypt, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda (on behalf of the Group of African States), Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

9. At its 355th meeting, on 4 April, the Commission heard a statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

10. The Commission entrusted Working Group I with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 4. Working Group I held 12 meetings, from 6 to 20 April.

11. The Commission entrusted Working Group II with the mandate of dealing with agenda item 5. Working Group II held 12 meetings, from 5 to 21 April.

12. In accordance with the past practice of the Commission, some non-governmental organizations attended the plenary meetings.

III. Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. The Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of documents submitted by the Secretary-General to the Commission for its substantive session of 2016 (A/CN.10/210).

B. Other documents, including documents submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the Commission's work, the documents listed below, dealing with substantive questions, were submitted and considered:

Working paper submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries Movement (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.1)

Working paper submitted by the States members of the League of Arab States (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.2)

Working paper submitted by Australia on behalf of Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.3); subsequently Norway and Turkey associated themselves with the working paper

Working papers submitted by Japan on behalf of the Group of Seven (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.4 and (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.5)

Working paper submitted by China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America (A/CN.10/2016/WP.1)

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its 359th plenary meeting, on 22 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted ad referendum the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. No recommendations were put forward by the Commission. The Commission agreed to submit the texts of the reports, which are reproduced below, to the General Assembly.

16. At its 360th meeting, on 22 April the Commission adopted, by consensus, the reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to be presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Chair and the secretariat.

17. The report of Working Group I reads as follows:

Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

[to be inserted]

18. The report of Working Group II reads as follows:

Report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

[to be inserted]

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Draft report of Working Group I on agenda item 4

1. At its 355th plenary meeting, on 4 April 2016, the Disarmament Commission adopted its agenda for its substantive session of 2016 (A/CN.10/L.76) and decided to allocate to Working Group I agenda item 4, entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

2. The Working Group, chaired by Kairat Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan), held 12 meetings, from 6 to 20 April 2016. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the secretariat of the Working Group. The Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. The Working Group held extensive discussions on agenda item 4.

4. At the 1st and 2nd meetings, on 6 April 2016, delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's conference room paper (A/CN.10/2015/WG.I/CRP.1) and discussion paper on approaches for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation dated 23 April 2015.

5. At the 3rd and 4th meetings, on 8 April 2016, delegations continued to exchange views and made various proposals on the Chair's conference room paper (A/CN.10/2015/WG.I/CRP.1) dated 23 April 2015.

6. At the 5th meeting, on 12 April 2016, the Chair introduced his revised non-paper dated 11 April 2016. At the 5th and 6th meetings, on 12 April 2016, the delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised non-paper.

7. At the 7th and 8th meetings, on 14 April 2016, the delegations continued to exchange views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised non-paper dated 11 April 2016.

8. At the 9th and 10th meetings, on 18 April 2016, the delegations exchanged views and made various proposals on the Chair's second revised non-paper dated 17 April 2016.

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9. At the 11th and 12th meetings, on 20 April 2016, the delegations continued to exchange views and made various proposals on the Chair's revised non-paper dated 17 April 2016.

10. Following discussions by the Working Group, the Chair decided to issue the Chair's non-paper dated 17 April 2016 under his own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation, given that A/CN.10/2016/WG.1/CRP.1, in his view, could form a basis for further discussions during the inter-sessional period and at the 2017 substantive session of the Commission.

11. The following documents were presented to Working Group I:

(a) Working paper submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.1);

(b) Working paper submitted by the States members of the League of Arab States (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.2);

(c) Working paper submitted by Australia on behalf of Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.3), and subsequently Norway and Turkey associated themselves with the working paper;

(d) Working papers submitted by Japan on behalf of the Group of Seven (A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.4 and A/CN.10/2016/WG.I/WP.5).

12. The Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

13. At its 12th meeting, on 20 April 2016, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 4. It also decided to make available the document mentioned in paragraph 10 of its report to the 2017 substantive session of the Commission.

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Draft report of Working Group II on agenda item 5

1. At its 355th plenary meeting, on 4 April 2016, the Disarmament Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2016 (A/CN.10/L.76) and decided to allocate to Working Group II agenda item 5, entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons".

2. Working Group II, chaired by Bouchaib Eloumni (Morocco), held 12 meetings from 5 and 21 April 2016. The Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as secretariat of the Working Group, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as adviser to the Working Group.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 5 April, the Working Group took up the previous Chair's conference room paper dated 21 April 2015 (A/CN.10/2015/WG.II/CRP.1). At its 2nd to 8th meetings, on 7, 11, 13 and 15 April, the Working Group held deliberations on the conference room paper, during which delegations exchanged views and made written and oral proposals. At its 9th meeting, on 15 April, the Working Group completed its reading of the conference room paper.

4. At the 10th meeting, on 19 April, the Chair introduced a conference room paper dated 18 April 2016 (A/CN.10/2016/WG.II/CRP.1), which was based on the Chair's conference room paper dated 21 April 2015 and took into account written and oral proposals made by delegations. Conference room paper A/CN.10/2016/WG.II/CRP.1 was presented under the Chair's own responsibility and without prejudice to the position of any delegation. At the same meeting, the Working Group began its reading of that conference room paper.

5. At its 11th meeting, on 19 April, the Working Group completed its reading of the conference room paper dated 18 April 2016 (A/CN.10/2016/WGII/CRP.1).

6. At its 12th meeting, on 21 April, the Working Group recorded its appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat.

7. At the same meeting, the Working Group considered and adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5.